



# Arizona Department of Public Safety

For Immediate Release

Thursday, November 20, 2008

## **Arizona Department of Public Safety Traffic Stop results in the seizure of 17.5 Pounds of Cocaine**

*\$7,820 also discovered in hidden compartment*

On November 17, 2008, at about 12:42 p.m. an Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officer stopped a 1994 Honda for unsafe lane change and following too close on Interstate 10 westbound at milepost 201 near Picacho Peak. A search of the vehicle revealed an empty compartment near the passenger side of the vehicle. The top side of the driver wall was pried open. Inside were plastic kilo- sized bundles later determined to be 17.5 pounds of cocaine.

The cocaine has a street value of \$160,000

Driver arrested: Jose Luis Uriarte, 31, Tucson. He was traveling to Las Vegas, Nevada. He was booked into the Pinal County Jail in Florence for transportation and possession of cocaine for sale.

\*Photos included.

"The excellent work of our Highway Patrolman is evident when we intercept these drug loads coming through the state. We hope this seizure will help keep Arizona communities a bit safer," said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety

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